

# Central Junior High School



**205 Caruthers, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 ~ Phone (573)334-2923 ~ Fax (573)335-7173**

Roy Merideth, Principal ~ Alan Bruns, Assistant Principal

Terry Kitchen, Athletic Director (573)651-6246 ~ Karen Gleeson/Ellen Boucher, Counselors (573)335-5007  
[www.cape.k12.mo.us/cjhs](http://www.cape.k12.mo.us/cjhs)

June 4, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Andrea Griffin. I've had the distinct pleasure of being Andrea's building principal for the past three years and have had occasion to observe her in and out of the classroom as a teacher, mentor and continuing learner.

Ms. Griffin was hired to fill an eighth grade Social Studies teaching vacancy at Central Junior High School. To say that she was a remarkable teacher would be the grandest of understatements. Ms. Griffin shows the teaching and classroom management maturity of a veteran teacher. She quickly established classroom procedures and expectations with all students. She is viewed by all students as a teacher who is firm, fair and consistent. During an earlier teacher observation I observed interacting with the students and engaging them in the lesson. Ms. Griffin uses her own contagious enthusiasm for her subject matter as a means of drawing her students in and keeping them interested.

Additionally, Ms. Griffin volunteered to assist our school with its Character Counts and THRIVE (Teach, Hope, Reach, Involve, Value, Encourage), and Change of Heart programs. She became a faculty leader in these organizations and was instrumental in making these programs successful at Central Junior High School. I can assure you that Ms. Griffin places her heart and soul into the education she provides. She also volunteered to serve on and coordinate the building level professional development committee.

Ms. Griffin is one of those rare individuals who understand that teaching is not a seven or eight hour job. For her and those like her, teaching is a calling or a mission and it involves countless hours of dedication. Ms. Griffin gives those hours and is constantly looking for more ways to assist students. She is a passionate advocate for the most impoverished and at-risk students. One of her greatest assets is that she understands poverty and has received and utilized Ruby Payne training to help her connect with those students.

It is with some regret that I write this letter of recommendation. The loss of Ms. Griffin to our Social Studies department and, indeed, to our school community will be profound. I would be more than happy to speak with you via telephone regarding Ms. Griffin. I strongly encourage you to accept Ms. Griffin as a teacher in your school community. She is a rare find.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Merideth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Roy Merideth, Principal